

Attorney Docket No.: 9342-13
Application No.: 10/519,822
Filed: December 30, 2004
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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the Examiner's thorough examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action of September 14, 2006 (hereinafter "Office Action"). In response, Applicants have amended the Specification to correct various informalities identified in the Office Action. Applicants respectfully submit that the cited references do not disclose or suggest, at least, the recitations of the pending independent claim. Accordingly, Applicants submit that all pending claims are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of all pending claims is respectfully requested for at least the reasons discussed hereafter.

Objection to the Drawings

The drawings stand objected to because reference numeral 18 is not referred to in the detailed description. (Office Action, page 2). Applicants have amended the Specification to refer to reference numeral 18 in the paragraph beginning on page 6, line 31 and ending on page 7, line 5.

Objection to the Specification

The disclosure stands objected to because of various informalities. (Office Action, page 3). Applicants have amended the Specification as set forth above to correct the informalities cited in the Office Action.

Independent Claim 1 is Patentable

Independent Claim 1 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over U. S. Patent Publication No. 2003/0032443 to Johnson et al. (hereinafter "Johnson") in view of European publication EP 1 107 542 A1 to Romao (hereinafter "Romao").

Claim 1 is directed to a communication terminal and recites, in part:

a housing;
a user interface on a front side of the housing, said housing carrying therein a radio antenna element, a PCB comprising a ground plane extending longitudinally through the terminal behind said user interface;

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a speaker; and
a chamber that acts as an electromagnetic resonance cavity for the antenna and as an acoustic resonance cavity for the speaker;
wherein said speaker is mounted inside said chamber, wherein said speaker is placed behind said PCB and completely behind said user interface as viewed from said front side, wherein sound is coupled from the speaker to a front outlet by means of an opening formed in said PCB at the speaker, a sound channel extending from said opening longitudinally in the terminal between said PCB and said user interface, past said speaker, to a bent portion leading the sound channel around an edge of said user interface at an end portion of the terminal, and wherein the sound channel extends from the bent portion to the channel front outlet substantially perpendicular to said front side.

As highlighted above in Claim 1, the speaker is placed completely behind the user interface as viewed from a front side of the terminal. The speaker is connected to an opening in the PCB and then to a sound channel, which extends longitudinally between the PCB and the user interface, and then to a bent portion that leads around an edge of the user interface, and finally straight to a front side aperture (front outlet). The Office Action acknowledges that Johnson does not disclose this aspect of the present invention as recited in Claim 1, but alleges that Romao provides the missing teachings. (Office Action, page 4). Applicants respectfully disagree. First, the speaker 3 is not placed entirely behind the user interface, i.e., display 4, as shown in FIGS. 1 and 2 of Romao. Second, there is no opening in the PCB 6 to which the speaker 3 is connected. As a consequence, there is no sound channel extending between the PCB 6 and the user interface 4 of Romao. Finally, the sound channel, i.e., acoustic conduit shown in Romao that is located over the top of the PCB 6 and emerges above the display 4 is configured such that it bends downwards towards the output aperture and not straight from the end edge of the user interface. As noted above, Claim 1 describes the sound channel as extending to the channel front outlet substantially perpendicular to the front side.

Accordingly, for at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that independent Claim 1 is patentable over Johnson and Romao and that Claims 2 - 12 are patentable at least per the patentability of independent Claim 1.

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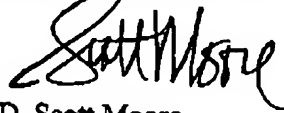
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CONCLUSION

In light of the above amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully submit that the above-entitled application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of this application, as amended, is respectfully requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,



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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U. S. Patent and Trademark Office via the central facsimile number 571-273-8300 on December 14, 2006 and is addressed to Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O., Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450.


Amelia Tauchen